

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-02 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06  
OES-06 SCSE-00 /101 W  
----- 065514 /43

R 200851Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO USINT BAGHDAD  
INFO USDOC WASHDC  
SECSTATE WASHDC 6883  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMCONSUL SHIRAZ  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 5867

ATHENS FOR RTDO, BRUSSELS PASS MARAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EWWT, KU, IZ  
SUBJ: PORT CONGESTION EASES IN IRAQ

REF: BAGHDAD 1722

1. KUWAIT SHIPPING AND PORT SOURCES IN GENERAL CONFIRM EASED  
CONGESTION CONDITIONS AT BASRA PORT WITH WAITING TIME AT BASRA  
NOW REPORTEDLY DOWN TO 4-5 DAYS ONLY. ACCORDING TO GOK MINISTRY  
OF COMMUNICATIONS THERE ARE NOW CONGESTION SURCHARGES FOR BASRA.  
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EMBASSY HAS NOT BE ABLE TO CONFIRM REPORT THAT GOI HAD INVITED  
KUWAIT IMPORTERS TO UTILILIZE BASRA PORT FOR KUWAIT-BOUND  
CARGOS.

2. CARGO UNLOADED IN KUWAIT BOUND FOR IRAQ IS DIVIDED INTO  
TWO CATEGORIES: TRANSIT CARGO, TRANSHIPPED BY IRAQI CONSIGNEES

THROUGH KUWAIT, AND RE-EXPORTS, GOODS PURCHASED BY KUWAITI MERCHANTS FOR IMMEDIATE OR EVENTUAL RESALE. INDICATIONS ARE THAT, AS A RESULT OF GOK POLICY DISCOURAGING TRANSIT CARGO, FORMER HAS DROPPED OFF CONSIDERABLY. TWO GOK POLICY MEASURES, IN PARTICULAR, STAND OUT: GRANTING PREFERENCE (BETTER BERTHING AND UNLOADING FACILITIES) FOR CONFERENCE MEMBER VESSELS, AND FORBIDDING STORAGE OF TRANSIT GOODS WITHIN PORT AREA. BOTH MEASURE HAVE ENCOURAGED SHIPPERS TO USE BASRA FOR IRAQ-BOUND GOODS. ONE ESTIMATE OF TRANSIT GOODS NOW WAITING TO BE UNLOADED IN KUWAIT IS 250,000 TONS, BUT MOST OF THIS IS BOUND FOR SAUDI ARABIA. RE-EXPORT SITUATION UNKNOWN AT PRESENT TIME. WAREHOUSE SHORTAGES ARE LIKELY TO DECREASE AMOUNT OF RE-EXPORT TRADE, BUT NO DIMINUTION HAS BEEN NOTICED SO FAR.

3. COMMENT: IMPROVEMENTS IN BASRA AND DAMMAN, AND WORSENING CONGESTING IN KUWAIT (50 DAYS WAITING TIME FOR CONFERENCE MEMBER SHIPS, 120 DAYS FOR NON-CONFERENCE), REPRESENTS STARTLING REVERSAL OF SITUATION OVER COURSE OF ONE YEAR. GOI REPORT OF OFFER TO KUWAITI SHIPPERS TO USE BASRA (REF, PARA 5) IF ACCURATE, IS AN INTERESTING "MAN BITES DOG" STORY. IN LIGHT IRAQI/KUWAITI BORDER SITUATION, IT DUBIOUS THAT KUWAITS WOULD TAKE THIS OFFER UP.  
MAESTRONE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PORT CONGESTION, MARINE CARGO  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976KUWAIT05867  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760466-0735  
**From:** KUWAIT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761229/aaaaaykw.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BAGHDAD 1722  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by williarl>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by schwenja>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PORT CONGESTION EASES IN IRAQ  
**TAGS:** EWWT, KU, IZ  
**To:** BAGHDAD  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006